



## **Board Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm**

The meeting was held at the home of Margie Gibson, President.

**Called to order** at 2:00 pm.

**Present:** Margie Gibson, President; Cathleen Norman, Treasurer, via Zoom; Betty Spence, Secretary; Don Graves, Past President; Marty Eberhardt; Elroy Limmer; David Philips

**Absent:** Dinah Demers, proxy given to Margie Gibson; Stacy Sollisch, proxy given to Don Graves

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the Board meeting of March 12, 2024, were approved.

### **Board Reports:**

**President's Report:** Prior to the meeting, Margie circulated the following report:

Wendy Graves and I have been working on reorganizing and updating the GNPS website. Last week, former treasurer Dave Becker notified us that our payment for web hosting at FatCow was overdue. Wendy, Cathleen, and Dave worked to cover the period from April 30 to May 15 for a cost under \$10. Then Wendy moved the web hosting and domain registration to SouthWest CyberPort (SWCP), a small company located in Albuquerque. She became re-acquainted with their help team the previous week while trying to accomplish a rather large task for the Native Plant Society of New Mexico (NPSNM), whose website is also hosted there. She was reminded of their superb help services. Not only do they have a good customer service model, they also charge a lot less: FatCow was \$286.43 annually, while SWCP charges us \$199.37 for hosting and domain registration for one year.

Once the website was moved, Wendy and I did some additional reorganizing and updating. We have hopefully deleted all the out-of-date material, but let me know if you see anything we missed. The "Education" tab is now "Resources" and includes two new features: four publications that can be downloaded and a list of native plant nurseries.

**Treasurer's Report:** Prior to the meeting, Cathleen circulated a Treasurer's report for April 2024. Among other information, she reported that the Gila Native Plant Society checking account as of 4/30/2024 had a balance of \$3007.69. The Silva Creek Botanical Garden checking account as of 4/30/2024 had a balance of \$90,516.98, including the Trails+ Grant money. The GNPS money market account had a balance of \$11,109.63, and the SCBG money market

account had a balance of \$26,537.00. The total asset balance including Edward Jones and other accounts as of 4/30/2024 was \$188,644.42.

Cathleen also reported that she and Marty had put together a draft contract for Ashley Pedersen's work in developing a plan for the pollinator garden. Regular payments would be going from the garden account to Eric Brown until October for garden maintenance. She asked, now that we had received the Trails + Grant money, how it should be allocated in the various accounts.

### **Committee and other reports:**

**Silva Creek Botanical Garden Steering Committee Report:** Prior to the meeting, Marty circulated the following Steering Committee report as of May 14, 2024:

Butterfly Garden: Planting is going on and will continue. An opening is planned for September 14.

Habitat Thicket: A new metal sign has been installed. We will be using a whiteboard to test our messages. An opening is planned for October 26, when all elements, including a lot of educational signage, will be installed.

Tank/Mural: As of this writing, we are still working on dealing with the oil. Elroy may have updates by the time of the meeting. Rohan Stiles will be moving the artwork in the next few weeks. Diana Ingalls Leyba is still on board for the mural project next summer.

Main Entrance: A team will be working with landscape architect Steve Morgan in June.

Signs: The interpretation team met with Margie about Mimbres-style logos for our three themes. She will design some based upon our mutual agreements. The team will be meeting later this month to work on content for the entrance sign. J and J signs will be making "info sticks" for the habitat thicket.

Pollinator Garden: Ashley Pedersen will be coming July 12-14 to work on a plan onsite. New team members include Ed and Karen Valentine, retired teachers on the GNPS education committee, and Chris from Whiskey Creek Zócalo Nursery. A contract has been sent to Ashley.

Creek: The YCC crew will continue trail work in June. YCC is covering the costs of the \$500 worth of rocks that SCBG was going to fund.

Management Team Budget: The Steering Committee approved the Management Team's 2024-2025 budget, which is now submitted for Board approval.

Elroy gave an update on the remediation of the tank. Rohan Stiles of Adobe Technology had measured and estimated that there were about 1,500 gallons - about three feet - of oil in the tank, too much to leave in. Elroy was expecting a quote from the firm of Safety Clean on how

much it would cost to drain the tank, flush it out and plug some holes, and he would then present the quote to the Town Manager, Alex Brown.

**Give Grandly:** Prior to the meeting, Betty circulated the following report on Give Grandly 2024:

The live Give Grandly event enjoyed great weather and attendance. Jim Blurton set up and took down with help from Don and Dave. Marty and later Dave accompanied me at the table, while Ed and Karen Valentine and later Don helped visitors plant wildflower seeds in cups formed from paper.

We had many visitors, who learned about our garden project and other activities. On this occasion we were not allowed to sell books or memberships, but several people took the membership brochure or asked how to order our publications. It seems to me to be a great way to meet the community.

We brought in \$1,145 at the live event. So far, in person and online, we have received donations totaling over \$3,000, and there may be a little more by May 20<sup>th</sup>. Of that, so far \$1,125 has been earmarked for the Silva Creek Botanical Garden.

**Old Business**

**May 19<sup>th</sup> Picnic:** Margie reminded the Board that the annual joint picnic with Southwestern New Mexico Audubon would be at noon on May 19<sup>th</sup> at the Gomez Peak Pavilion. The Audubon group would supply the hot dogs, sausages and fixings, and Elroy and Don would cook them. Elroy would bring our big jug filled with iced tea. Everyone attending should bring a potluck dish and their own plates, cups and utensils.

**Garden Management Budget:** Prior to the meeting, Margie had circulated the following proposed garden management budget on behalf of the Garden Management Team:

[SCBG Maintenance Budget July 1,2024-June 30, 2025](#)

Item	Amount
Tree Pruning	1,800.00
Plants	800.00
Tools	500.00
Soil/Amendments/Mulch	400.00
Misc Supplies	350.00
Total	3,850.00

She also reminded the Board that a contract for a paid gardener position has already been approved by the Board in the amount of 2,600 for six months running from April 1 – October 30, 2024.

Discussion: Elroy noted that the amount budgeted for tree pruning was lower than last year's; the decision was to work on removing smaller trees alongside the creek. Marty pointed out that GNPS did not have to pay the anticipated \$500 for rocks for the trail, since YCC was assuming that cost.

**Motion: The Board approved the Garden Maintenance Budget for July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 as submitted.**

**GNPS Operating Budget:** Prior to the meeting Margie had circulated a copy of the GNPS Operating Budget for the period July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024.

She explained that it was preliminary to discussion of a new budget at our June Board meeting. In the past, GNPS had not had an operating budget, but because of the Trails+ Grant application it had been necessary to develop one last fall. Marty said that it would be helpful in coming up with a new budget if the Treasurer could report how actual revenue and expenditures measured up with the projections last year. Cathleen said she could manage that with help from Margie. Marty said that in future perhaps that report could be made on a quarterly basis. Others thought that a half-year basis would be sufficient.

Cathleen questioned why the operating budget was based on a July-to-June fiscal year, while the financial report the chapter was required to send to the state organization covered January to December. Moreover, the categories were different. Margie explained that the state and the town used a July-to-June fiscal year, which made it necessary to use that basis for grant applications, for instance. The categories were the ones useful for operations planning. The categories could be reconciled with those in the annual financial statement to NPSNM, and she could help.

**Website:** Referring to the information in her President's Report above, Margie said that Wendy Graves had done wonderful work in transferring and setting up the GNPS website. Betty suggested that some of the Board members should have a training session with Wendy so that they could help in maintaining the website.

### **New Business**

**Job Descriptions:** Prior to the meeting Margie had circulated a list of the many tasks she had had to undertake as President. It was clear that a Vice President was needed to share the burden. The new President and Vice President could divide the tasks based on their aptitudes.

Betty and Cathleen said they would come up with descriptions of their functions.

**Riparian Woody Plants brochure:** Don explained that the brochure entitled *Riparian Woody Plants of the Gila National Forest* had originally been put together by Angela Flanders and Jeff

Boyd. It needed some updating but was a valuable resource. Margie said that she had updated the scientific names, and Russ Kleinman had proofread it. The question before the Board was whether to print 500 or 1,000 copies. Vista Printing had been found to be the best option. Don said that it would be good to have the brochure in both the Visitor Center and the U.S. Forest Service office.

**Motion: The Board approved the printing of 1,000 copies of the brochure *Riparian Woody Plants of the Gila National Forest*.**

**Butterfly Garden 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Saturday, September 14, 2024:** Margie informed the Board that, in conjunction with Heart of the Gila, it had been decided to have a rededication of the Butterfly Garden on September 14<sup>th</sup>, the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the death of the three young people the Butterfly Garden had been created to honor. They were Aldo Leopold students, promising young naturalists, who died in a helicopter crash while surveying the national forest.

### **Other Business**

Dave said that the Visitor's Center needed more NPSNM membership brochures. Don asked whether the VC could sell any of our publications, notably the Beginner's Guides. Dave said he could explore that possibility. The VC was starting to branch out from promoting tourism to helping newcomers moving to Silver City.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.**

### **APPENDIX: Decisions taken by exchange of email since April 17, 2024**

#### **Decision taken by exchange of emails April 22, 2024:**

**Motion: The Board approved the award of a grant of \$500 to the Gila Valley Library for the project: "Celebrate Pollinators! Demonstration Garden."**

Explanation: The application showed that the project to create a demonstration garden at the Gila Valley Library was very worthwhile. Monica Rude, the project coordinator, is very knowledgeable about native plants and has worked with Naava on our medicinal garden. She hopes to start planting before the weather becomes too hot, so that a decision from us was needed before our next Board meeting.

#### **Decision taken by exchange of emails April 23-24, 2024:**

**Decision:** The Board agreed with the suggestion that items should be kept on the GNPS website according to the following guidelines:

1. Bulletins Tab – keep back issues indefinitely unless space becomes an issue.
2. Documents – keep minutes indefinitely, but only current policies.
3. Field Trips – past trips for one year; keep all plant lists.
4. Past Programs – keep descriptions for one year, and keep all programs with recordings indefinitely, with title and presenter only.